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Many a soldier whose martyrdom on the battlefield has won celebrity and been extolled in verse showed no greater bravery in the line of duty and was deserving of no more praise than Paymaster William H. Law.

The Prospect in Cuba.

Minister de Loma's press agent in Havana is becoming indignant at the Cuban insurgents because of their obstinacy in refusing to buy the autonomy gold brick. He writes in a fit of passion to the Washington Post: "Blanco and his lieutenants have substituted for the policy of severity and punishment that of laxation and indulgence. They are offering the Cubans not only forgiveness for the past, but liberty and self-government for the future. If the insurgents do not accept this, it will be because they do not want a regime of law and order and political emancipation. It will be because the brigand's career suits their taste better than the restraints of industry and civilized society. It will be because they are repelled by order and against any enlightened order of things because they would rather subsist by plunder than by toil; rather be marauders than peaceful citizens. If they really want self-government, here is Spain offering it to them. If they do not want it, then they are mere hypocritical and impudent pretenders."

Talk like this may influence Americans who are ignorant of Cuban history, who do not understand the wrongs which Cubans have suffered from Spain's hands, who are unaware of the proved perfidiousness of past peace offers made by Spain and the probable falsity of the present overture. In short, who imagine that the Cuban insurrection has no justification and that the word of Spain is an asset of substantial value. But it is the very quintessence of impudence and presumption to those who are informed on the subject, suggesting much the same spirit as that displayed by His Satanic Majesty when he took it upon himself to rebuke sin. If the offer of autonomy had been made first, with a disposition to meet the Cubans half way and adjust details to the satisfaction of all concerned, then a refusal by the insurgents to consider terms of peace would have sacrificed much of the sympathy which they now command. But to extend the olive-branch only after two years of Weylerism, with its indescribable inhumanity and its wanton disregard of the rules of civilized warfare, and to propose as a basis of compromise a home possession scheme of alleged home rule which, even if not canceled by Spain before made effective, would leave Spain again in possession of the kernel while the insurgents would have only the shell. Is in any honest view simply to add insult to injury—a fact made plain by the tactics used by Blanco in his efforts to seduce the insurgent leaders into surrendering.

And now a word as to the character of the Cuban insurgents. On this point it is possible that American public opinion has been misinformed. The persistent reiteration by Spanish agents of the charge that they are more ignorant mutineers chiefly, who are in revolt mainly because it frees them from the ordinary restraints of civilization; or that the few leaders among them who possess rudimentary knowledge of soldiery are mercenaries, ready to sell their swords to the highest bidder, may possibly have succeeded in causing such an impression to prevail in certain quarters, especially inasmuch as little effort has been made to counteract it. But all the facts belie this charge. For more than two years these alleged mutineers and mercenaries have resisted within an area about the size of Pennsylvania a force of trained regular soldiers nearly seven times as large as the total British strength fought by our revolutionary forefathers, and resisted so well that out of Weyler's magnificent army of 200,000 men 140,000 now occupy unmarked graves. The directing spirits of the insurrection are among the brightest and keenest minds in this country, men who have come up with Spain's best diplomats and strategists and come out victorious every time. They are following plans laid after long and careful study—plans for whose execution preparations were being made years before the first blow was struck. Gomez, the commander-in-chief, has repeatedly rejected princely bribes from Spain, and with the memory of his only son slain a year ago in consequence of Spanish treachery is implacable. The non-return of the recent bay of spies sent by Pando to sound him is a suggestive bit of evidence in point. They never will return. Their bodies dangle from forest trees. Garcia, the military genius of the insurrection, and next to the martyrs Marti and Maceo, the greatest Cuban of his time, bears in the scar on his face the proof of his devotion and courage. Baffled and betrayed at the end of the Ten Years' war, and unwilling to submit to capture, he sent a bullet crashing through his own head, but fate may not say Providence decreed that his life should be spared for the present task. In the eastern provinces Garcia heads an army of 20,000 well disciplined men, and his efficiency as a commander is attested by the fall of Victoria des las Tunas, the capture of Guines and Guisa, the repeated defeat of Weyler and Pando, and lastly by the siege of Bayamo, which is now in progress, with every prospect of terminating successfully.

Americans wonder why the Cubans don't fight more battles pitched in the open. Garcia does fight in this manner, because he has the men and the ammunition to warrant the taking of such hazards. But the smaller commando parties do the guerrilla style of campaign deliberately and in pursuance of a fixed plan. They realize that in this way they can evade the danger arising from Spain's overwhelming superiority in numbers and at the same time inflict upon the enemy the maximum limit of damage and expense.

We have seen how Weyler's army of 200,000 has dwindled down to 60,000 effective regulars. That is the sufficient reply to critics of Gomez's guerrilla tactics. Those tactics have gnawed Spain's very vitals and yet kept the insurrection's forces almost intact. In war as in peace it is results that count. Results up to this time are all on the side of the Cuban insurgents. They have made the most remarkable campaign for freedom in modern history, and every aury is to the effect that they will win their objective point—unconditional independence—ere another year rolls around. Mark this prediction for future reference.

Authoritative announcement is made of the falsity of the story that General Sangulilly had sold out to Spain. On the contrary, he intends to renounce his American citizenship, on which he was pledged not to re-enter the field against Spain and return to Cuba to resume his old command under Gomez. He alleges that his parole was secured by false pretenses and that therefore he is morally free to violate it. This point may not be so readily conceded by others; but in any event it is some consolation to know that however deficient he may be in judgment Sangulilly is not a deliberate traitor.

The Monroe Doctrine: What Is It?

A former member of the American diplomatic service contributes to the Washington Star an interesting piece of news or fiction, one does not know which. He says he has high German authority for the assertion that the cause for Germany's manifest and emphatic dissatisfaction with the Monroe doctrine as recently pronounced is to be found in the fact that the German government has for several years been laying plans for the capture of Argentina, by hook or crook, with the purpose of converting it into a large German colony wedded politically to the fatherland. The unnamed German official who is reported to have disclosed this novel plan of empire extension is quoted specifically as follows: "We must have more territory and we are not going to the trouble to get any more which is uninhabitable. This time we will know what we are about. We have been making our plans carefully for years and do you suppose we are going to have them all overthrown by you merely because you are a few thousand miles nearer than we? Next thing we of the old country know you will be claiming a right to interfere between England and a possibly rebellious Australia merely because you are nearer to the island than the English. We will not make our play until we have made every preparation thoroughly and you may be sure we will be prepared to meet your ridiculous Monroe doctrine and any strength it may bring forth. We have measured your possible strength well. We have no Canada to be fearful of. We have nothing you can attack near at home. Then with your wonderful resources we admit that you are almost invulnerable, but if we should wish without the consent of its people to conclude to seize the Argentine Republic what would you do about it? You would either have to fight us there or at home. We certainly would not come to you to settle a quarrel with which you, we contend, have nothing at all to do. Are you or will you ever be prepared to carry war into a far away enemy's country?"

This may all be a mere fantasy of the imagination, but in any event it affords an opportunity for renewed contemplation of the Monroe doctrine. As defined by President Cleveland that doctrine would certainly commit us to forcible resistance of Germany in case that nation should undertake to seize possession of a South American republic. In other words, the hazard of a frightful war must be incurred by our government if at any point on the Western hemisphere European sovereignty shall hereafter seek to encroach by force. Under the Cleveland doctrine if European encroachment should be by peaceful processes of trade, purchase or cession, we would have no warrant to interfere, despite the fact that foreign encroachment is foreign encroachment, whatever the means employed.

It is probable that this definition of the Monroe doctrine will not stand the test of time. It is illogical and inconsistent. But what form of interpretation will endure? Where are we to draw the line upon foreign occupation of American territory? The answer to this question would involve a gift of prophecy to which we lay no claim; but generally speaking we incline to the opinion that after the United States of America has managed to tolerate two years of Weylerism in Cuba it will not be in good position to object seriously to peaceful German colonization should such be attempted on the South American mainland.

The Democrats in trying to make a partisan issue out of the Cuban problem, will, so far as they shall produce any effect at all, simply help Spain.

Bankruptcy Legislation.

It is announced in correspondence from Washington that the house judiciary committee has agreed upon a new bankruptcy bill which will soon receive the approval of the house. It will be remembered that legislation to regulate bankruptcy has on several occasions been almost completed, but something has invariably arisen to thwart the demand for action of this character.

The present bill provides, we are told, for both voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy. By its provisions any one may file a petition and go into voluntary bankruptcy, except a corporation. The latter may be forced into it but not otherwise. Wage-earners, laborers and farmers cannot be forced into it. All others are subject to involuntary bankruptcy for certain designated causes. In general these involuntary causes relate to fraudulent conduct on the part of the bankrupt. The former clause providing that a man who permits his commercial paper to go for thirty days shall be an involuntary bankrupt is eliminated. Where a person institutes proceedings against an alleged bankrupt by petition and is defeated on a hearing the bill as it now stands directs the court to allow the respondent all reasonable costs, expenses and counsel fees, to be paid by

the petitioner. The petitioning creditor also must at the time of filing or within five days thereafter file a bond approved by the court conditioned on the payment of the costs. Its general effect is to discharge the bankrupt of all debts after the estate has been administered, and it has been found that there has been no fraudulent conduct. "The new measure is so framed," says the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, "as to make its administration simple and inexpensive. It involves only two officers, referee and trustee. The former trustee receives no pay until the estate is closed; the referee is to receive a fee of \$10 at the outset, and when the estate is closed a commission of one-half of one per cent. Various penalties not only against the referee and trustee, but the bankrupt in case of fraud, are named."

These provisions appear to be eminently fair and just both to debtors and creditors. The need of legislation protecting the interest of both classes in the business community is so apparent that it seems superfluous to state it in words. It is to be hoped that the present bill will speedily become a law.

Controller Lloyd, of Luzerne, has had the misfortune to differ from the court in the matter of the interpretation of the law which forbids salaried policemen to receive any fee or emolument for any service pertaining to their duties as policemen. Policeman Jones, of Wilkes-Barre, served a number of subpoenas, turned in a fee bill and the controller refused to approve it. The policeman took the matter into court and there the controller was promptly overruled. He probably has other surprises of a similar character awaiting him. His conception of his duties is such that if he were to be sustained by the court the other officials of Luzerne county would soon be relegated to the position of mere clerks.

It is difficult to understand why President Andrews should be criticized by Grand Army officials for eulogizing the personal character and military talents of General Robert E. Lee. We believe it is nowadays conceded by competent observers that General Lee was one of the greatest military geniuses in American history. He fought on the wrong side, but he fought there conscientiously and did his best. No man could do more. Let us not begrudge to our brethren who wore the Gray fair recognition of many qualities. The war is over.

The government, it seems, has already arranged to forward relief supplies to the starving ice-bound victims of the Klondike craze, and its course is to be commended on humanitarian grounds. But it might be well to couple with this bit of necessary paternalism a specific and explicit notification that hereafter the Alaskan-bound argonauts must begin the Klondike gamble on their own responsibility and with full foreknowledge that they must accept all the consequences thereof.

Now that ex-Congressman Aldrich has been proffered another place, it looks as if Consul General Lee had been requested to make his stay in Havana indefinite. It is well. General Lee commands the country's utmost confidence and respect, and as Lincoln said, it is a poor policy to swap horses in the middle of the stream.

Correspondent Pepper reports it as the opinion of a majority of both the Spaniards and Cubans in Havana that the United States will yet intervene in the Cuban war. We wish we could share this belief, but an administration which could keep hands off butcher Weyler will hardly take a grip on palavering Blanco.

There appears to be good ground for the belief that ex-Ambassador Bayard again, has the senatorial fever. If Delaware cannot choose a good Republican it might easily select a worse Democrat than Mr. Bayard.

Credit where credit is due. Under the circumstances no American could bear himself with more dignity and wisdom than General Woodford has displayed since reaching Madrid.

Economy without inefficiency, or, in other words, efficiency without waste, should be the Republican motto in congress. It is a war cry that will win.

Civil service "reform" must submit to radical reformation or else be made to give up the ghost. Nothing can be gained by postponing the inevitable.

In 1876 copyright laws were granted to American writers and composers; in 1896, 72,470. America is obviously the coming seat of literature.

At this rate Santa Claus may have to travel on a mudboat.

Regarding the New Literary Lion

From the Pittsburg Times. ALL THE world that reads is talking about Henry Sienkiewicz, the author of "Quo Vadis." He is the literary sensation of the generation. In an age when of the making of books there is no end he has easily come to the front and overshadowed all others, although he writes in a language which is unknown to the great literary nations. Naturally, there is great interest in his personality and methods, and a demand to know what manner of man he is. This demand has been partly met by the issuance of a small pamphlet by Little, Brown & Co., Boston, Sienkiewicz is a Pole of the Poles, and a native of that province known as Lithuania. He was born at Wola Okrzejska in 1848, of an old noble family, but from which wealth had departed. Lithuania, the land of his birth, though a part of Poland, has the characteristics of a distinct nationality—a nationality even more interesting to the philologist than to the historian, because of its peculiar dialects, which present a more striking affinity to ancient Sanskrit than any other dialect known. It has scarcely any printed literature, but is rich in spoken dialects, in fragments of songs, legends of rare beauty tinged with a melancholy at once chaste and tender and profound.

In due time Sienkiewicz became a student at the University of Warsaw, where he had many opportunities of observing the unhappy condition of his native country and the efforts that were being made by its contemporaries to demoralize the Pole. He left the university at the age of 22, becoming a wanderer. He led a gypsy life in all parts of Poland, mingling with all sorts and conditions of people, and facing as such wanderers do. He was

seemingly content to get his food as did the birds of the air, and seemed to be endowed with that common beyond that. That his wanderings were not without purpose, however, was evidenced by a volume of sketches that came from his pen in 1874 and exhibited great power of satire. After having tired of wandering, or having accomplished the purpose for which his nomadic life was undertaken, he edited a journal in St. Petersburg. This did not occupy him long, and, like many another adventurer and enthusiast, he drifted to Paris. Here, in 1877, with some countrymen he joined in the idea of forming a Polish utopia in America. A small hard of them sailed in that year and started their scheme near Los Angeles, Cal. Their settlement was called Anno Lani. Among the party was Mme. Modjeska, who afterward became so celebrated on the stage.

The enterprise soon proved a failure, and those who had embarked in it were compelled to look elsewhere for a livelihood. After attempting a number of schemes to gain a living, Sienkiewicz managed to get back to Poland, and a few years thereafter, in 1880, he began the publication of these books which have made him famous. These were three formidable novels, "With Fire and Sword," "The Deluge" and "Pan Michael." They all deal with heroic incidents in the history of Poland in the seventeenth century, when Poland was an independent nation, and she is deemed his greatest work, notwithstanding he is chiefly known in the English-speaking world as the author of "Quo Vadis." These books were published in a Polish magazine as a serial, and they ran for a period of eight years, each succeeding book being a sequel to the preceding one and carrying along some of the same characters. Speaking of these the pamphlet says: "There are utterances and incidents in this work as dramatic as Shakespeare himself. The genius stamped upon the Trilogy is profoundly original, never imitative. All the forces of nature have helped to make it what it is. Fire, feeling, large humor, profound pathos, a deep reverence for the forms and spirit of true religion—these are but a few of the most striking characteristics of this work."

Here is a pen picture of the personality of the man: "And perhaps more eloquent than many a printed page is the face of Sienkiewicz as it looks at us in the first volume of 'The Deluge.' It is the face of a thinker, of a man who has lived deep, felt deep, loved and joyed and suffered. It is peculiarly an artist's face, stamped with the fine sensitiveness of temperament that belong to such. The gaze is kindly, yet sad. There is nothing of that exuberance of humor which shines in the countenance of human beings, or of the gentle, genial good-humor that speaks from Sir Walter's kindly visage. It is the face of a poet, a cosmopolitan, a Hamlet of the nineteenth century, of a man who has traveled much in distant lands, is equally at home in the Orient or the Occident, but has remained always of the Poles, Polish even to the fine finger-tips."

These historical novels were antecedent to the production of "Quo Vadis," which deals with the early Christians in the time of Nero, and which, by reason of the fact of the incidents appealing to the whole Christian world, has attained a much wider popularity. But the same qualities that have caused "Quo Vadis" to be placed at the head of all the many books dealing with the early centuries of Christianity are present to an even greater degree in Sienkiewicz's earlier works dealing with the heroes of Poland. The notion of competent critics, they have turned into the major current of Polish literature as rich a stream as Shakespeare poured into the literature of England. Sienkiewicz has attained a complete knowledge of the Polish tongue, a most difficult one, a thorough understanding and sympathy with his author and an understanding for his genius, so that he uses every gift in his power to properly present him to English readers, as a labor of love.

FOR CUBA.

Once a lowly race lay dying, Angriously as madmen die, Cursed with the agony that freed them, The power their hate had dared defy.

We were free and you enslaved us; We were proud, you broke our chains; We were proud, you broke our manhood; We were rich, you stole our gains. You robbed our women of their honor, Made our fair homes desolate; We saw our children grow in likeness, To the image that you hate.

We were starving and you kept us From the means of getting bread, And you lashed us as you drove us, 'Till we prayed but to be dead.

But brave men rose up among us, And we followed them to war, Crying, "Let us live as freemen, Better dead than as we are."

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